

COAL MINING.

How Pennsylvania Coal Miners Work and Live.

Most people going for the first time into the region of the great anthracite mines would at once put the mine workers and their families in a class apart from the ordinary human beings, writes Paul Latzke, in the Detroit Free Press. The newspaper accounts have paved the way for this, and the appearance of the men and boys in their working outfit clinches the impression. No other body of laborers in the world carry such strong external evidences of their vocation. From the top of their heads, where their mining lamps flare from the peaks of their queer shaped caps, to their feet, shod with great, grimy, thick-soled, clamping boots, the mineworkers bear the obtrusive stamp of their trade. They look uncanny, fierce. Take the most mild mannered and inoffensive little man that lives, clothe him in the miners' regalia, let him hammer for eight or ten hours underground, and he will come up a fearsome object. The most courageous woman from the outside world would run from such a man at the least demonstration. Should she unexpectedly meet him at dark on a lonely road, having never seen a miner before, she would probably have an attack of hysteria.

The faces of the men are hard and seamed and sallow, and, thick with coal dust, they are almost less than human to the unaccustomed gaze. Their eyes are outlined with crows' feet, no matter how young they may be, and they have a peculiar squinting look, due to their constant working in the half gloom of the coal tunnels. It is recorded of some of the mules that pull coal cars in the mines, that, having worked for years under ground without once coming up, they have gone instantly blind, on being exposed to the daylight. In a measure it is so with the men and boys who spend their working hours day after day underground. The daylight gives them an uncomfortable sensation, and they acquire the habit of screwing up their eyes that finally affects all the muscles of the face.

It is owing to these strongly marked peculiarities that the mine workers are put down at first by newspaper correspondents and writers in the district as something apart. Even the trained observer requires some time to accustom himself to their striking appearance and to realize that after all these men are like other men, and that their women, though they have absorbed many of the characteristics of the men, are like other women. It is not until he has spent a little time among the miners that he comes to regard them as ordinary workmen. On a Sunday or holiday with the grime washed off their faces, their mining lamps hung away, their working clothes removed, the men look an entirely different lot of human beings. Then it is only by their crows' feet and the paleness of their skins, due to their underground life, that they are to be recognized. The first time I ever saw a considerable body of the miners together was a Sunday mass meeting before the big strike was called. I was amazed at the unlikeness to their pictured appearance. For all that anyone could have told the mass meeting might have been at Cooper Union in New York. The only difference was that most of the men—and women, too, for there were lots of women in the crowd—were much better dressed than the crowd that turn out at Cooper Union mass meetings.

If the miners and mine laborers were engaged in work of an ordinary character, no one would think of putting them down as being underpaid as a class. Compared with other forms of work, mining, even in its highest form, is little more than unskilled labor, and the scale of prices may seem high. But in determining the earnings of miners as compared with the earnings of other laborers, a number of things are to be taken into consideration. The character of their work is extra hazardous. Every time a man goes down the shaft he puts himself at the mercy of all sorts of dangers over which he has no control. Gas explosions, a "squeeze," the falling of a mass of coal, and a dozen other things menace his life every moment that he is underground. And so shrewdly have the operators managed that the financial penalty for an accident never falls on them. In almost any other pursuit in which an employee is killed, his family has a chance of claiming damages. In the coal mines no one ever dreams of putting in such a claim as a legal right. Many difficult inquiries I made to find a case where a coal operator had been mulcted in damages, for injury and loss of life, but none could be found. There was a hazy story that an unknown operator had once paid the family of an unknown driver boy, who was killed, \$75. But this case could not be traced within the time at the

ordinary man's disposal. Most of the operators make some sort of reparation by furnishing special employment about the works to the men crippled in their employ, and where the father is killed a place is generally found for the boys if there are any in the family. But such a thing as a cash settlement is never dreamed of.

The little chance that the miners had in this direction was skillfully taken from them by a piece of legislation that was passed, "in the interest of miners," and that was hailed with joy by the men at that time. This was the creation of County examining boards, to insure miners' licenses. Without such license no man can mine coal. The men foolishly thought that this would protect them from unskilled competition, and especially from the competition of the foreigners that were pouring into that region. They soon found, however, that the protection didn't protect. The County boards are paid a fee for each license they issue. Naturally County politicians are not going to work against their own politics by refusing licenses to men prepared to pay for the luxury. So the "license" has degenerated into a farce, in so far as it serves as a protection against competition, and danger from the presence of poor workmen. But for the operating companies the measure has proved a great thing. By employing only "licensed" miners they are released legally from all responsibility for accidents. If a miner is buried under tons of coal and rock when he is at work, the fault is his own. If the laborer working at his side is also killed, the laborer's relatives may look to the family of the "licensed" miner for damages, but not to the operator. If there is an explosion of gas, the miner in whose chamber it occurs is the responsible party.

The operator hired him on the strength of his license, the possession of which presupposes that the man knows all about gas, and how to get away from the chambers where it lies before it accumulates in dangerous quantities.

The "fire boss" who inspects the mine every morning for gas on behalf of the operator warns the miners as they go in when gas may be expected and it is up to the miners to avoid explosions. This is what the "license" has done for the men. "Mother" Mary Jones, "queen of the mines" and the idol of the miners, occupies a unique place in the world of labor. This kind-hearted, philanthropic woman is so loved by the rough delvers of the coal mines in the anthracite regions that with their aer work is tantamount to law. Mrs. Jones is fifty-six years old, silver-haired and beautiful. Her voice has been sweetly eloquent in behalf of the workers whose cause she has adopted, and her appeals have won unstinted sympathy for her simple, hard-laboring friends. She lives at Wilkesbarre.

When you feel that life is hardly worth the candle take a dose of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They will cleanse your stomach, tone up your liver and regulate your bowels, making you feel like a new man. For sale by Hill-Orr Drug Co.

In consequence of the increasing cost of Holland oysters, American oysters are coming more and more into vogue in Germany.

Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets cure biliousness, constipation and headache. They are easy to take and pleasant in effects. For sale by Hill-Orr Drug Co.

Bore—Your face looks familiar. Haven't I seen you somewhere? Gore—"Very likely; that's where I live. If you happen to be in that part of the country again drop in and see me."

You Know What You Are Taking When you take Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic because the formula is plainly printed on every bottle showing that it is simply Iron and Quinine in a tasteless form. No Cure, No Pay. 50c.

Some people talk a long time before you can get at what they are trying to say.

This is the season when mothers are alarmed on account of croup. It is quickly cured by One Minute Cough Cure, which children like to take. Evans' Pharmacy.

The hand that rocks the cradle can seldom throw a brick to hit anything in sight.

Dr. W. H. Lewis, Lawrenceville Va., writes, "I am using Kodol Dyspepsia Cure in my practice among severe cases of indigestion and find it an admirable remedy." Many hundreds of physicians depend upon the use of Kodol Dyspepsia Cure in stomach troubles. It digests what you eat, and gives instant relief and a permanent cure. Evans' Pharmacy.

The man who refuses to forgive others should be very careful to do nothing that needs forgiveness.

The product of a tight shoe or of an oak tree is a corn.

The Colorado Desert.

LOS ANGELES, October 21.—One of the most remarkable lines of development in the history of the world is in progress in Southern California, and the progress being achieved would amaze any person who is not keeping close watch of events.

This is the wiping out of the Colorado desert, and the present indications are that the next five years will witness the thorough cultivation of 1,000,000 acres of land which has been the most desolate looking body of land on earth.

For terrific heat, for barrenness, for entire absence of water, for sand storms, for its tales of death from thirst, for all that goes to make up a record of horrors, the Colorado desert is not surpassed by any other one of the earth's death spots, not even by Sahara, which has stood for centuries as the type of forbidding nature.

But all of that is to be a thing of the past, the change to be wrought by the sinking of artesian wells and the diversion of the water of the Colorado River, which is estimated to be sufficient for the irrigation of 8,000,000 acres of land.

Attention has been called several times of late to the work of the International Land Company, which is digging a canal for the irrigation of land lying on both sides of the line between the United States and Mexico. Within a few months this company expects to have water on the ground for the irrigation of 100,000 acres in the United States, and soon after it will begin the task of irrigating 100,000 acres which it owns on the Mexican side of the line. It is proposed to furnish water in the near future for 500,000 acres on this side alone.

But aside from the work of this company and probably of fully as much importance, is the recent discovery of an artesian belt under a great stretch of country in the vicinity of Indio, where a number of wells have been sunk. Artesian water being secured, while many more wells are now being dug and hundreds of men have fled claims there, taking up tens of thousands of acres.

But even this is not all. There has been in Los Angeles during the past few days two farmers who live on the banks of the Colorado River, one hundred miles above Yuma and fifty miles from the nearest other settlement. Their property is near the famous Blythe ranch of 40,000 acres.

They are trying to induce settlement in their vicinity, where the best of land is reported to be still open to settlement at Government prices. They report that a colonization project is being prepared for the Blythe ranch and that the settlers are anxious to see enough people come in to divert water from the river for irrigation.

Through most of the length of the river from Needles to Yuma it is said that there is a strip of excellent land on either side of the river, averaging about five miles width, which can be irrigated with little trouble, while it is entirely feasible with capital to place the water on hundreds of thousands of acres of desert lying further back.

Aside from the growing of early fruits, the desert is exceedingly well adapted to alfalfa and stock raising, and there is probably no other portion of the world where greater crops could be raised to the acre.

On the Arizona side of the river there are a number of projected irrigation enterprises depending on the water of the Colorado, and it now looks as though a very few years would see a complete transformation of the desert.

For many years there has been talk of the redemption of the Sahara Desert, and it may await the action of Californians to demonstrate to Europe the feasibility of such an enterprise.—New York Commercial.

To Cure A Cold In One Day Take Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

The title of "Reverend" has been applied to clergymen since the middle to the seventeenth century.

CANCER Cannot be Cut Out or Removed with Plasters

Surgical operations and flesh destroying plasters are useless, painful and dangerous, and besides, never cure Cancer. No matter how often a cancerous sore is removed, another comes at or near the same point; and always in a worse form. Does not this prove conclusively that Cancer is a blood disease, and that it is folly to attempt to cure this deep-seated, dangerous blood trouble by cutting or burning out the sore, which, after all, is only an outward sign of the disease—a place of exit for the poison?

Cancer runs in families through many generations, and those whose ancestors have been afflicted with it are liable at any time to be stricken with the deadly malady.

Only Blood Diseases can be Transmitted from One Generation to Another—further proof that Cancer is a disease of the blood.

To cure a blood disease like this you must cure the entire blood system—remove every trace of the poison. Nothing cures Cancer effectually and permanently but S. S. S.

S. S. S. enters the circulation, searches out and removes all taint, and stops the formation of cancerous cells. No more tonic or ordinary blood medicine can do this. S. S. S. goes down to the very roots of the disease, and forces out the deadly poison, allowing the sore to heal naturally and permanently. S. S. S. at the same time purifies the blood and builds up the general health.

A little pimple, a harmless looking wart or mole, a lump in the breast, a cut or bruise that refuses to heal under ordinary treatment, should all be looked upon with suspicion, as this is often the beginning of a bad form of cancer.

Mrs. Sarah M. Keeling, 911 Windsor Ave., Bristol, Tenn., writes: "I am 47 years old, and for three years have suffered with a severe form of Cancer on my jaw, which the doctors in this city said was incurable, and that I could not live more than six months. I accepted their statement as true, and had given up all hope of ever being well again, when my druggist, knowing of my condition, recommended S. S. S. After taking a few bottles the sore began to heal, much to the surprise of the physician, and in a short time made a complete cure. I have gained in flesh, my appetite is splendid, sleep is refreshing—in fact, am enjoying perfect health."

Our medical department is in charge of physicians of long experience, who are especially skilled in treating Cancer and other blood diseases. Write for any advice or information wanted, we make no charge whatever for this service. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC COMPANY, ATLANTA, GA.

Water as a Fuel.

Next to making water run uphill, is that of the invention of a gentleman in Montreal, A. G. Lugal's, a graduate of McGill University, in that city. His invention is a process by which water may be used so as to effect an immense saving in the consumption of coal. In fact, it may be said that water practically is the fuel and coal is merely an auxiliary. The method is such that a thin spray of water is spread over a coal flame in such a way, and with such auxiliaries, that the heat of the flame is wonderfully augmented. The full details of the secret are not yet made public by the inventor. The discovery, it is alleged, can be applied to gas and other flames.

"I have used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and find it to be a great medicine," says Mr. E. S. Phipps, of Poteau, Ark. "It cured me of bloody flux. I cannot speak too highly of it." This remedy always wins the good opinion, if not praise, of those who use it. The quick cures which it effects even in the most severe cases make it a favorite everywhere. For sale by Hill-Orr Drug Co.

—A heart full of grace is better than a head full of notions.

—The average lazy man is too lazy to worry about his laziness.



Insure Your Life Before Taking Chances

ON Railroads, Sailing Vessels or Travel of any kind. The wise man will see that his family is insured against want, while he can pay a small premium on an insurance policy in a round country. Let us draw your policy, and in case of death we will see that it is promptly paid and adjusted.

M. M. MATTISON,
FIRE, LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE,
Peoples' Bank Building, ANDERSON, S. C.

Oat Season 1900.

Seeding time has come and you come with it to LIGON & LEDBETTER and get their—

Fine Sherman Texas Oats,
Grown on ground where there is no Johnson Grass

Just received 18,000 bushels. Price as LOW AS ANY ONE, according to the kind of Oats.

Come and see NEW STORE and NEW OATS—either the BEST that GROWS.

LIGON & LEDBETTER,
WHOLESALE DEALERS.

Plenty Rye and Barley.

FREE.

Trusses

Fitted free of charge by competent person at our Store. All styles and sizes.

EVANS' PHARMACY.

RAISE YOUR OWN BREAD AND COMPETE FOR A VALUABLE PRIZE OFFERED BY THE VIRGINIA-CAROLINA CHEMICAL CO.

FOR THE BEST WHEAT CROP MADE IN THE STATE.

For particulars apply to the Company at Charleston, or any of its authorized agents in the State.

Competitors must register their names not later than December 1st, 1900. Three prizes offered:

A Reaper and Binder.
A Wheat Drill.
Two Tons Standard Ammoniated Fertilizer.

L. & P. Spirite Corsets.
ASK FOR OUR NEW PARIS SHAPES
THEY ARE LOW BUST, STRAIGHT FRONT & LONG HIP.
STYLES 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